



# HF Happenings 791

Volume 16, Issue 2, the week of 16 April 2018



## The Autumn QRP Contest

The QRP contests are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs. Using homebuilt equipment or operating as a portable/field station and using temporary antennas is encouraged but is not a requirement. The Autumn QRP Contest runs from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 21 April 2018 with SSB and CW activity and power of 5 watts (PEP) output or less. There are no antenna restrictions and a station may be worked once per band per mode.

The first hour is limited to the 40-m band only, the remaining two hours the contesters are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit. Comply with the contest-preferred segments as detailed in the general rules. It would be advantageous to use the standard QRP calling frequencies as the starting point.

The exchange is a RS(T) and your Grid locator. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports and please use the full 6-character grid locator. e.g. KG43EU.

Logs in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format with a summary sheet and labelled "my call sign QRP Contest," shall be submitted by 28 April 2018 by e-mail to [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za). Refer to GR 3.6 and 5.1 to 5.6 for detail about logs and summary sheets. A photo(s) of the station operating (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry.

## The ZS4 Sprint

This is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in the Free State and radio amateurs in Southern African countries and takes to the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 22 April 2018.

The exchange for ZS4s is a RS(T) and town name or abbreviation and for other stations - RS(T) and provincial or country abbreviation.

The ZS4 Sprint is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre

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HF Happenings from  
[www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

## April

- 1 to 7 – Pesach
- 2 – Family Day; World Autism Awareness Day
- 5 – SARL 80 m QSO Party
- 7 – RaDAR Challenge; United Nations World Health Day
- 7 and 8 – SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest
- 10 – Provincial Schools open
- 12 – International Day for Human Space Flight; closing date for 80 m QSO logs
- 13 - *Friggatriskaidekaphobia*
- 13 to 15 – SARL National Convention, Pretoria
- 14 – closing date for RaDAR logs
- 16 – closing date for VHF/UHF digital logs
- 18 – World Amateur Radio Day
- 21 – Autumn QRP contest
- 22 – ZS4 Sprint; May RAE registration closes; Earth Day
- 24 – closing date for May Radio ZS
- 27 – Freedom Day
- 28 – Cape Town ARC meeting; closing date for QRP logs
- 30 – closing date for ZS4 logs

## May

- 1 - Worker's Day
- 3 - World Press Freedom Day
- 5 - SDR Workshop at the NARC
- 5 and 6 - AWA Valve QSO Party
- 8 - Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War
- 10 - Ascension Day
- 12 - World Migratory Bird Day
- 13 - Mother's Day
- 15 - International Day of Families
- 16 - Start of Ramadan
- 19 - May RAE (10:00 to 13:00 CAT) and AMSATSA Space Symposium
- 20 - ZS3 Sprint
- 21 - Closing date for AWA Valve QSO Party logs
- 24 - Closing date for June Radio ZS
- 25 - Cape Town ARC meeting
- 25 and 26 - CQ WPX CW contest; Pretoria ARC rally communications at the Secunda SCC
- 27 - Closing date ZS3 Sprint logs

band with SSB activity between 14:00 - 15:00 UTC on 7 063 - 7 100 and 7 130 - 7 200 kHz and CW activity from 15:00 - 16:00 UTC on 7 000 to 7 040 kHz

Logs, in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "my call sign ZS4 Sprint," shall be submitted by 30 April 2018 by e-mail to [zs4srk@gmail.com](mailto:zs4srk@gmail.com). A certificate will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in both categories.

Please consult the 2018 SARL Blue Book for all the information on these two contests.

### SDR workshop at NARC to Address Antenna Issues

The next SDR workshop will be held at the NARC starting at 09:00 on Saturday 5 May. At the workshop, there will be a report back on the SARL RF Noise Monitoring Project. Other subjects to be covered include how to automate the uploading of the data to the server, an introduction to GNU Radio by Anton Janovsky, ZR6AIC, and a discussion on the best antenna to use for the noise monitoring project with Vincent Harrison, ZS6BTY. The cost will be R50 for SARL and AMSAT SA members and R100 for non-members. Registration details are on [www.amsatsa.org.za](http://www.amsatsa.org.za) or link from the SARL Home page. There will no facilities at the workshop to handle cash. Please use EFT.

### DXCC News

Sharon Taratula, ARRL Awards Manager, states, "The ET7L contact still is not acceptable for DXCC credit."

### African DX

*Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award* ([www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp))

Sierra Leone, 9L. Mark, KW4XJ plans to operate in the CQ MM DX Contest (21 and 22 April) as 9L/KW4XJ from near Freetown. QSL via KW4XJ.

Zambia, 9J. Watch also out for Brian, 9J2BO, in the CQ MM DX Contest. QSL via G3TEV, direct.

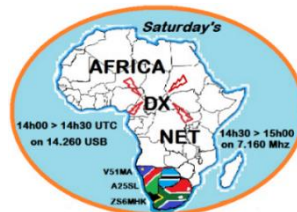
Lesotho, 7P. Bernie, ZS4TX, will once again be active as 7P8Z from Maseru (WW Loc. KG30vo) between 27 and 29 April. Activity will be on 2 m EME. Planned operations are from Moonrise time 14:40 UTC [first 3 degrees blocked by mountain range] on Friday 27 until Moonset on Sunday 03:40 UTC 29 April 2018. QSL via LoTW.

Togo, 5V. John, N9MDH is operating from Lomé as 5V1JE until May using SSB and digital modes from 80 to 10 metres. QSL via LoTW.

Senegal, 6W. Franz, DC4CQ will be operating as 6W/call between 14 to 28 April with activity from 40 to 15 metres using SSB. QSL via home call.

Mozambique, C8. Members of the Lions DX Team will be active as C8T from Bilene-Macia, Gaza, Mozambique, between 2 and 15 May. Operators mentioned are Kurt, ON8KW (Team Leader), Roger, ON7TQ (Co-Leader), Bruno, CS7ABG (Co- Leader), Paulo, CU2CO, Emil, DL8JJ, Ron, ON1DX, Philippe, ON4ACP, Marc, ON4AMX, Erik, ON4CCV, Olivier, ON4EI, Herman, ON4QX, Ivo, ON5CD, Cis, ON6LY and Franky, ON7RU. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will also operate on 60 m and 2 m EME. QSL via ON1DX. QSL via ON1DX. For more details and update, see <https://mozambique2018.wordpress.com>

Rwanda, 9X. Members of the Italian DX Team (IDT) are planning a DXpedition to Rwanda sometime between late September-early October this year. Callsign will be announced later, but they are seeking input for the needs for both bands and modes. DXers can take the survey at [www.i2ysb.com/idt](http://www.i2ysb.com/idt)



## African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Morocco, CN. A group of 20 Moroccan operators plans to activate the Ile de Mogador (AF-005 Safi/Essaouira/Agadir Region group) as 5C5AF from 17 to 22 April. QSL via I8LWL.

Canary Island, EA8. Marco, IK2LFF will be operating as EA8/call from Tenerife between 17 and 24 April. QSL via Club Log OQRS and LoTW.



Canary Island, EA8. Mike, DG5LAC will be active as EA8/call from Fuerteventura between 14 and 28 April. Operation on HF using SSB and FT8. QSL via home call.

Mozambique, C9. Vasily, R7AL, Vasily RA1ZZ, Al RZ3K and Vlad RK8A will be operating as C96RCC and C98RCC between 29 April and 9 May. Activity using CW, SSB and digital modes from 40 to 10 metres. QSL via R7AL, Club Log OQRS. Visit <https://dxpedition.wixsite.com/mozambique>

29 April to 3 May - AF-088 Mozambique Island <https://www.rsgbiota.org/info/search.php?q=af088>

5 to 9 May AF-066 Inhaca Island <https://www.rsgbiota.org/info/search.php?q=af066>

Rodrigues Island, 3B9. Members of the Association Réunionnaise des Radio Amateurs (ARRA) FR4KM, will be active as 3B9RUN from Rodrigues Island (AF-017) between 11 and 16 May. Operators mentioned are Jacky, FR4NP, Bruno, FR4PF, Emile, FR4PM, Jean, FR5CB and Bernard, FR5FC. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. Equipment will be 2 x Icom 7000 and 1 x Kenwood TS-480 with a 500 W amp into a Hexbeam and a DX88 vertical. QSL via EA7FTR, direct or ClubLog. See QRZ.com for updates.

Rodrigues Island, 3B9. A team with FR4NP, FR4PF, FR4PM, FR5CB and FR5FC will be operating as 3B9RUN from 11 to 16 May. Operation from 80 to 10 metres using FT8 and SSB. Visit <https://www.qrz.com/db/3B9RUN>

Madeira, CT3. Tibor, OM3RM will be operating from Porto Moniz as CR3DX during the CQ WW WPX CW contest. Before and after the contest he will sign from 80 to 10 metres as CT9ABN from 19 to 29 May. QSL via OM2VL.

Cape Verde, D4. Harald, DF2WO will again be operating 'holiday-style' as D44TWO during May. Operation from 40 to 10 metres. QSL via M0OXO.

Reunion Island, FR. Alain, F1FJR will be active as FR/call between 5 and 15 May. Operation from 80 to 10 metres using FT8. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

## Phone Contesting Tips for DX Contests

Andy, AE6Y, is an experienced phone contester, achieving the top-10 box in contests many times from his Aruba station [www.arubaqth.com/contestresults.html](http://www.arubaqth.com/contestresults.html). His article on phone contesting in the March 2018 issue of the Northern California Contest Club's *Jug* newsletter entitled "Phone Contesting Tips for DX Contests" was reprinted in the April 2018 Western Washington DX Club's *Totem Tabloid* newsletter. You can find it at either link, available for your reading pleasure. One of his many recommendations includes using context-specific phonetics for increased copyability. [www.nccc.cc/jug/2018/03Mar2018.pdf](http://www.nccc.cc/jug/2018/03Mar2018.pdf) and/or [www.wwdxc.org/wp-content/static/tabloid/2018/April-2018.pdf](http://www.wwdxc.org/wp-content/static/tabloid/2018/April-2018.pdf)

## Who is in what CQ Zone?

Let us say you need zone 36 in a contest. What are ALL the prefixes should you be listening for? Find out using this handy website that shows all countries possible for a particular zone.

<http://www4.plala.or.jp/nomrax/CQ/index.html>

## Your typing speed

A bigger contest score is achievable by more contacts and higher rates. Touch typing ability was once thought to be key to rapid data entry during contests, however researchers have found that the style of typing doesn't limit overall speed <https://newatlas.com/fast-typing-cambridge/54104>. This is not an endorsement of hunting and pecking. To achieve maximum speed, non-touch-typing keyboarders must have the layout memorized, practice to achieve high speeds and low error rates, and should use a 'make before break' style of typing where the next key is struck before the last key is released. And never, ever, look at the keyboard!

## Word to The Wise

**Jitter** - for periodic signals, or signals that are associated with a timing, jitter is the difference from an expected period or clock rate. For example, for RTTY communications at 45.5 bauds, each bit time is 22 milliseconds in length. If a transmitted bit time is shortened or lengthened, a decoder expecting a 22-millisecond bit may not sample the correct bit during decode, and error rates can increase. Some software-generated RTTY signals may exhibit jitter due to inexact timing worsened by high CPU demand or the nature of timers in general purpose operating systems.

JA7UDE, author of the *EXTFSK* program to generate FSK, analysed software timer generated RTTY versus hardware generated RTTY and illustrated the differences <http://www.qsl.net/ja7ude/extfsk/jitter.html>.

## Sights and Sounds

The IARU Region 1 Field Day event happens the first weekend in June <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/iaru-region-1-fieldday/en/>. In 2017, The Contest Group Wittgenborn Germany put DP6T on the air, with some very serious equipment <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzfp3NEgTJM>.

When the contest is over, the bands clear quickly. NG0Z's panadapter documents just how quickly at the end of the CQ WPX SSB contest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qlfx7ZetFC0>.

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 16 to 23 April 2018

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 16 April

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3

points per QSO with member on same continent; 5

points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once;

Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 April 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/>

Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 April

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once

per band; Each VE province/territory once per band;

Each North American country (except W/VE) once

per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 20 April 2018

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.per-](http://www.per-luma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)

[luma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Contest\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.per-luma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 18 April and

03:00 - 04:00 UTC 19 April



Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Awards: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no  
 non-Member: Name and state, province or country  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
 Multipliers: Each call once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC April 21, 2018  
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint  
 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 20 April  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: RTTY  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 22 April 2018  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint  
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 April  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 22 April 2018  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Holyland DX Contest  
 21:00 UTC 20 April to 21:00 UTC, Apr 21  
 Geographic Focus: Israel  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB, digital or mixed; Single Op QRP; Multi-Single; SWL  
 Max power: non-QRP: >10 watts; QRP: 10 watts  
 Exchange: 4X: RS(T) and area; non-4X: RS(T) and serial no  
 Work stations: Once per band per mode  
 QSO Points: 2 points per QSO on 160 – 40 m; 1 point per QSO on 20-10 m  
 Multipliers: Each 4X area once per band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 31 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [4Z4KX@iarc.org](mailto:4Z4KX@iarc.org)  
 Upload log at: <http://www.iarc.org/iarc/#LogUpload>  
 Mail logs to: Contest Manager 4Z4KX, Israel Amateur Radio Club, Box 17600, Tel Aviv 61176, Israel  
 Find rules at: <http://www.iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest>

ES Open HF Championship  
 05:00 - 05:59 UTC and 06:00 - 06:59 UTC and 07:00 - 07:59 UTC and 08:00 - 08:59 UTC 21 April  
 Geographic Focus: Estonia  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, SSB  
 Bands: 80, 40 m  
 Classes: Single Op Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op CW; Single Op SSB; Multi-Single; SWL  
 Max power: High: >100 W; Low: 100 W; QRP: 10 W  
 Exchange: RS(T) and serial no  
 Work stations: Once per band per contest period  
 QSO Points: 2 points per CW QSO; 1 point per SSB QSO  
 Multipliers: Each ES region prefix (ES1 - ES0) once per band per mode  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 1 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [esopen@erau.ee](mailto:esopen@erau.ee)  
 Upload log at: <http://www.ESOPEN.EU/upload>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: [http://www.erau.ee/images/LL/ES-Open\\_rules.pdf](http://www.erau.ee/images/LL/ES-Open_rules.pdf)

Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest  
 06:00 UTC 21 April to 05:59 UTC 22 April  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, SSB  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op All Band - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Field Day Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op Mixed – low or high  
 Max power: HP: 1 000 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: CW: 5 watts/SSB: 10 watts

Exchange: BY: RS(T) and 2-character province; non-BY: RS(T) and serial no  
Work stations: Once per band per mode  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: Each BY province once per band  
Each DXCC country once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 06:00 UTC 29 April 2018  
E-mail logs to: [mulandxc@gmail.com](mailto:mulandxc@gmail.com)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.mulandxc.org/582#more-582>

QRP to the Field  
08:00 – 18:00 local 21 April  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, SSB  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op (see rules for theme)  
Max power: CW: 5 W; SSB: 10 W  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and name  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: Each state, province, country once per band  
Location: (see rules for theme mults)  
Score Calculation: Total score = QSO points x total mults x location mult  
Submit logs by: 1 June 2018  
E-mail logs to: [na5n@zianet.com](mailto:na5n@zianet.com)  
Mail logs to: Paul Harden, NA5N, QRPTTF 2015, PO Box 757, Socorro, NM 87801, USA  
Find rules at: <http://www.zianet.com/qrp/grpttf/2018/ttf.htm>

CQMM DX Contest  
12:00 UTC 21 April to 23:59 UTC 22 April  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op All Band YL; Single Op Single Band - low or high; Multi-Single  
Max power: High: 1 500 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: All: RST and continent abbreviation; CWJF members: RST, continent and "M"; QRP: RST, continent and "Q"; YL: RST, continent and "Y"; Multi-Op, Clubs, Groups: RST, continent and "C"  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO on 20 - 10 m with different country same continent; 4 points per QSO on 80 - 40 m with different country same continent; 3 points per QSO

on 20 - 10 m with different continent; 6 points per QSO on 80 - 40 m with different continent  
3 points per QSO with maritime mobile; 10 points per QSO with CWJF member, YL or QRP station  
Multipliers: Each SA prefix once per band; Each DXCC country once only  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 22 May 2018  
E-mail logs to: [cwjf@cqmmdx.com](mailto:cwjf@cqmmdx.com)  
Mail logs to: CWJF Group, Rua Dr. Edgard Quinet 35/401, 36036-080 Juiz de Fora – MG, Brazil  
Find rules at: <http://www.cqmmdx.com/rules/>

YU DX Contest  
12:00 UTC 21 April to 1159Z 22 April  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, SSB  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band CW - QRP, low or high; Single Op All Band – SSB or mixed - low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single  
Max power: HP: legal limit; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: YU/YT: RS(T) and County; non-YU/YT: RS(T) and serial no  
Work stations: Once per band per mode  
QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with YU/YT station; 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 4 points per QSO with different continent  
Multipliers: Each YU or YT prefix once per band; Each DXCC country once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 2 May 2018  
E-mail logs to: [yudx@yu1rs.org.rs](mailto:yudx@yu1rs.org.rs)  
Upload log at: <http://89.216.109.67:82/HF-Robot/index-HF.jsp>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [http://www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/2018/INTERNATIONAL\\_YUDX\\_HF\\_CONTEST\\_2018.pdf](http://www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/2018/INTERNATIONAL_YUDX_HF_CONTEST_2018.pdf)

Nebraska QSO Party  
13:00 UTC 21 April to 02:00 UTC 22 April and 13:00 - 22:00 UTC 22 April  
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF  
Classes: NE Fixed; NE Mobile/Portable; Out of State  
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NE (non-FT8): RS(T) and county; non-NE (non-FT8): RS(T) and state, province or country; FT8: signal-to-noise and grid square  
 Work stations: Once per band per mode per NE county  
 QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW or digital QSO; Bonus: 25 points per QSO with NE0QP; 50 points per county activated by a mobile/portable NE station  
 Multipliers: NE Stations: Each NE county, state, province, DXCC country once and each grid square worked via FT8 once; Non-NE: Each county once and each grid square once  
 Power: High: x 1, Low: x 2, QRP: x 4  
 Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults x power mult) and bonus points  
 Submit logs by: 7 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [KBOLF@Windstream.net](mailto:KBOLF@Windstream.net)  
 Mail logs to: Frank Eriken, KBOLF, 500 West Read Street, Murray, NE 68409, USA  
 Find rules at: <http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025-rules-ne-qso-party-2018.pdf>

#### Michigan QSO Party

16:00 UTC 21 April to 04:00 UTC 22 April  
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, SSB  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi; Mobile Solo Op (LP only); Mobile Multi-Op (LP only); MI EOC  
 Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: 100 W; QRP: 5 W  
 Exchange: MI: Serial no and county; non-MI: Serial no and state, province or "DX"  
 Work stations: Once per band per mode  
 QSO Points: 1 point per SSB QSO; 2 points per CW QSO  
 Multipliers: MI Stations: Each state, province, MI county and one DX once per mode; non-MI Stations: Each MI county once per mode  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 21 May 2018  
 Upload log at: <http://www.miqp.org/submitLog-FileMiQP.html>  
 Mail logs to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198, USA  
 Find rules at: <http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm>

#### EA-QRP CW Contest

17:00 - 20:00 UTC (10 - 20 m) and 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 21 April (40 - 80 m) and 07:00 - 09:00 UTC (40 m) and 09:00 - 12:00 UTC 22 April (20 - 10 m)  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: A: Single Op QRPp; B: Single Op QRP; C: Single Op QRP Homebrew Equipment; D: Single Op QRP Oldtime Equipment  
 Max power: QRP: 5 watts; QRPp: 1 watt  
 Exchange: RST, 1-letter category and "M" (if EA-QRP member)  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 points per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 4 points per QSO with different continent; 5 points per QSO with category A station  
 Multipliers: Each EA-QRP member once per band; Each country once per band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 22 May 2018  
 E-mail logs to: [eaqrp\\_test@yahoo.es](mailto:eaqrp_test@yahoo.es)  
 Mail logs to: Vocalia de concursos EA-QRP (Concurso CW), PO Box 17, E-16080 Cuenca, Spain  
 Find rules at: <http://www.eaqrp.com/index.php/actividades/concurso?id=216>

#### Feld Hell Sprint

18:00 - 21:59 UTC 21 April  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: Feld Hell  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m  
 Classes: (none)  
 Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: (see rules)  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: (see rules)  
 Bonus Points: (see rules)  
 Multipliers: (see rules)  
 Score Calculation: (see rules)  
 Submit logs by: 25 April 2018  
 Upload log at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhell-club/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhell-club/Home/contests/sprints/something-old-something-new-sprint>

#### Ontario QSO Party

18:00 UTC 21 April to 05:00 UTC 22 April and 12:00 - 18:00 UTC 22 April  
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW, Phone  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m  
 Classes: Fixed: Multi-Single; Fixed: Multi-Two; Fixed: Multi-Multi; Fixed: Single Op Mixed - QRP, low or

high; Fixed: Single Op CW - low or high; Fixed: Single Op Phone - low or high; Rover/Mobile: Multi-Op; Rover/Mobile: Single Op; Youth Plus  
Max power: HP: >150 W; LP: 150 W; QRP: 5 W  
Exchange: ON: RS(T) and county; non-ON: RST and state, province or country  
Work stations: Once per band per mode  
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points CW QSO; Bonus: 300 points for each ON multiplier activated by a Rover/Mobile (at least 3 QSOs with 3 different stations); 10 points per QSO with VA3CCO, VE3ODX or VA3RAC

Multipliers: ON Stations: Each ON county, state, province and country once per band; non-ON Stations: each ON county once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and Bonus Points  
Submit logs by: 23 May 2018  
Upload log at: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/submit-log.htm>  
Mail logs to: Contest Club Ontario, 9 White Crest Court, St Catharines, ON L2N 6Y1, Canada  
Find rules at: <http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm>

## Results and Records

Rate statistics are now available for CQ WPX Contests held since 2008 <https://www.cqwpw.com/rates>. For each log submitted, the highest 60-minute rate was calculated over the raw log. Sorts may be performed by continent or country, with the top 20 of each entry category displayed in the results. Single call sign searches are also possible.

The 2017 CQ WW SSB results and on-line certificates are now online <http://cqww.com/>. It was a record setting year for the number of logs submitted with a year-over-year increase of 13%. Of the 8 606 logs received, 63 logs – 1,2% reflected 40 or more operating hours. This year's event takes place on 27 and 28 October 2018.

## Operating Tip

**Room to Run** - be aware that if a frequency sounds unoccupied to you, it may not be elsewhere in the world. While you're running, occasionally ask stations that are calling you how they are copying you, and if there's any interference on their end. Another indicator that your run frequency may be busy is stations giving their call signs, but not responding when you call them back. A precipitous drop in your rate could indicate interference or changing band conditions. If you are allowed to use spots in your entry category, seeing DX spotted near your run frequency can also indicate that your rate is in peril.

## Technical Topics and Information

Bob, N6TV, has updated his Win-Test LUA scripts <http://www.kkn.net/~n6tv/wtscripts/> to provide better support of Icom radios, including support for the new IC-7610. Certain Icom models can now utilize the built-in voice keyer functions from the Win-Test keyboard. Win-Test <http://win-test.com/> is unique among contest loggers with its built-in LUA language interpreter <http://docs.win-test.com/wiki/API>, providing for very advanced functionality to be added without a program update.

The Twin City DX Association's March 2018 [The Gray Line Report](http://www.tcdxa.org/Newsletters/March2018GrayLine.pdf) [www.tcdxa.org/Newsletters/March2018GrayLine.pdf](http://www.tcdxa.org/Newsletters/March2018GrayLine.pdf) describes how a number of their members are adding SDR hardware to their existing HF rigs for more flexibility and increased capabilities. The comprehensive article by Kirk, N0KK, details the modifications performed to their transceivers, along with the software that they are using to add panadapter and other advanced functionality.

Sub vocalization is the silent, internal speech sometimes made when reading or practicing speaking without making sound. Even though no sound is emitted, the mouth may not move, small movements in neck and head muscles still occur. Researchers at MIT have built a headset to detect these muscle movements <https://newatlas.com/silent-headset-mit-alterego/54077/> and use them to command a computer. Combined with a digital voice keyer, could this be a way to do a "silent" phone contest in the future?

## VP6D Ducie Island DXpedition News (Press Release # 4)

For Immediate Release, 16 April 2018, VP6D Ducie Island 2018 DXpedition (OC-182)



We are now in the implementation phase of the project; equipment is being consolidated in Fremont, California. Customs brokers in the USA and New Zealand have been selected, and the New Zealand Government issued us an import / export license to ship the equipment to and from the country.

Manufacturers and distributors of amateur radio equipment are critical to the success of DX-peditions to rare entities. We are happy to have received significant support from DX-Engineering. They have furnished coax cable, guy ropes, a 40 meter four square system, coax connectors, ground anchors and other accessories. DX-Engineering has been a long-time supporter of our projects and many other DX-peditions to rare entities; we very much appreciate their continued commitment to the hobby.

Joining our list of corporate sponsors is SteppIR Communications Systems. We will add to our antenna line-up two 2 element Yagi antennas. These antennas proved to be indispensable during our TX3X Chesterfield Island project; we're happy to have them for VP6D and appreciate SteppIR's ongoing support.

A Garmin InReach Satellite Communicator will be used during the DXpedition. You will be able to follow our journey on the web, details to be announced. This handheld unit also provides 2-way SMS messaging similar to that of a traditional mobile phone and one-way messaging to Twitter and Facebook. We will use this technology to communicate with family, the pilot team and to update you via social media, as required. We'll also have an Inmarsat BGAN terminal for log uploads and e-mail with the pilot team.

Our budget for this project is about \$ 175 000. Our current fundraising campaign is underway; you may see the progress at our website. We appreciate the donations and equipment support we've already received. With the final payment for the Braveheart due on 1 September, the next most expensive line item is equipment shipping budgeted at \$ 20 000. Please remember, we must pay these expenses whether or not you make a contact. We need your help to keep our DX-pedition team's investment at a reasonable level. You may help by donating at [www.vp6d.com/](http://www.vp6d.com/)

Members of the VP6D team will be attending the International DX Convention in Visalia, California from 20 to 22 April 2018. We hope to meet many old friends and make new ones at the convention. Please direct questions to [info@vp6d.com](mailto:info@vp6d.com)



### Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 April  
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 25 April  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 April  
UKEICC 80 m Contest, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 April  
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 26 April  
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 27 April  
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 April  
10-10 International Spring Digital Contest, 00:01 UTC 28 April to 23:59 UTC 29 April  
SP DX RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 28 April to 12:00 UTC 29 April  
Helvetia Contest, 13:00 UTC 28 April to 12:59 UTC 29 April  
Florida QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 28 April to 01:59 UTC 29 April and 12:00 - 21:59 UTC 29 April  
BARTG Sprint 75, 17:00 - 20:59 UTC 29 April  
AGCW QRP/QRP Party, 13:00 - 19:00 UTC 1 May

*Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter*